

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17: Waste Management – Street Cleansing		Jackie Ward - Waste Manager	19 January 2016 Version 2 (Exec)
Proposal:	<p>The proposal is to change the amount of street cleansing service provided including reducing the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> weed spraying from three times per year to two frequency of cleansing around the mini recycling centres frequency of washing some litter bins from twice to once a year frequency of litter picking or street cleansing 		
Total budget 15/16:	£2,200,000	Recommended officer saving 16/17:	£100,000 (4.5%)
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£100,000 (4.5%)	Final recommendation to Executive 16/17:	To proceed with this savings proposal, without any modifications.
Nos of responses:	17 in total, 16 specific responses (including four from Town / Parish Councils, one from another organisation) and one general response.		
Key issues raised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal will result in an unacceptable level of cleanliness, reducing the quality of life in the district. Litter will increase and litter bins will overflow, leading to an increase in vermin, health hazards and an unsightly, dirty district which will deter visitors and impact on local business. Reduced weed spraying will create damage to the highways as weeds grow in the fabric of the highway and make it more difficult to properly cleanse the streets. Reduced street cleansing will result in more detritus being washed down into the drainage system creating more blockages and putting more pressure on the gully cleansing service. The proposal will lead to an increase in complaints which is counter-productive as it will waste valuable officer time. 		
Equality issues:	None were drawn out from the responses.		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Provide physically larger litter bins in high pedestrian traffic areas and more litter bins in areas where there are few.	Where frequencies of litter picking and/or street cleansing are to be reduced the provision and specification of litter bins within that area will also be considered.	
	Provide more education to encourage the public to dispose of litter carefully.	The Council intends to launch an education programme in 2016/17 which will include raising public awareness of the need to dispose of rubbish and litter responsibly.	

NB: This overview and recommendation paper should be read in conjunction with the Summary of Responses and Verbatim Responses received in relation to this proposal, circulated electronically to all members alongside the agenda pack and published online on our [Consultation Portal](#).

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	Instead of spending money clearing up litter it should be policed and penalties issued.	Enforcement is generally seen as a last resort, prevention is more effective in cost savings. The Council is committed to good enforcement policies and procedures and as such we aim to educate before issuing penalties.	
Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:	Suggestion	Council response	
	None		
Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	<p>Suggestions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local volunteers, unemployed or Community Payback offenders provide the service. • Local shops could sponsor litter bins outside their premises. • Encourage Parish Councils to get volunteer litter pickers / Local communities to run service themselves. • Parish Councils raise funds through the Council tax for contractors or to fund a Community support officer with the power to raise fixed penalty notices. 		
Officer conclusion as a result of the responses:	The key concerns raised were that the proposal will result in an unacceptable level of cleanliness, reducing the quality of life in the district. Concern that litter will increase, litter bins will overflow, leading to an increase in vermin, health hazards and an unsightly, dirty district which will deter visitors and impact on local business. The exercise also raised the issue that the proposal could put more pressure on the Highways Service, which is also subject to a budget reduction consultation; specifically in gully emptying and highway maintenance.		
Officer recommendation as a result of responses:	Feedback has not uncovered any issues which would prevent the council from proceeding with this proposal. It's therefore recommended to implement this proposal with no changes.		

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